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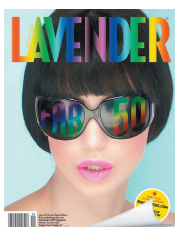
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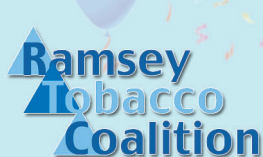
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Send all your calendar events to Linda@lavendermagazine.com

Letters are subject to editing for grammar, punctuation, space, and libel. They should be no more than 300 words. Letters must include name, address, and phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Priority will be given to letters that refer to material previously published in Lavender Magazine. Submit letters to Lavender Magazine, Letters to the Editor, 3715 Chicago Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407; or e-mail editor@lavendermagazine.com.

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“It Gets Better”



Love one another.” It’s a simple, memorable, and easy-to-remember phrase uttered, one is told, some 2010 years ago. People need such phrases, even though—like “Love one another”—they can be difficult to follow.

“It gets better”—another simple, easy-to-remember phrase—has sprung to life the past few weeks through the agency of Dan Savage, author of the sex-advice column “Savage Love,” and his partner, Terry Miller. They were moved by the recent spate of suicides of young gay persons, some not yet in their teens.

The most prominent and highly-publicized was that of Tyler Clementi, an 18-year-old Rutgers freshman who was a talented violinist. Some youngsters were bullied. Clementi’s roommate and a cohort secretly filmed Clementi with a male partner, and it was broadcast online.

Savage and Miller produced an 8 1/2-minute video—visit <www.itgetsbetterproject.com> to watch it—aimed specifically at gay teens stressed to the point that they might consider suicide as their only option. The two talk about how they met after surviving harrowing school and family situations. They return repeatedly to the powerful promise, “It gets better.”

This is the most important and most basic message that a troubled youngster needs to hear. Someone who is 13 or even 18 years old doesn’t have the experience to realize that time itself can bring surcease to much of his or her pain.

It is unconscionable that bullying continues to be condoned and ignored in our schools, but if a youngster can escape, life can improve from that point on.

Until that time, gay kids—or any child tormented for his or her color, body shape, religion, extraordinary talent, or gender—need a lifeline.

While clinging to the promise that “It gets better,” they can access videos like that of Savage and Miller, along with hundreds of others springing up on YouTube and other Web sites. They also can get advice about places to seek help and people to talk to—perhaps even a teacher at school, as Savage was fortunate enough to find.

Three words, a sympathetic adult, or the knowledge that he or she is not the only one can mean the difference between death and a fulfilling life for a young person. Best of all, Savage and Miller have shown that individuals can make a difference.

Here in Minneapolis, existing groups, clubs, or friends can think of ways to show a preteen, a high schooler, or an isolated college student that, indeed, “It gets better.” **E.B. BOATNER**



Greg Eiss

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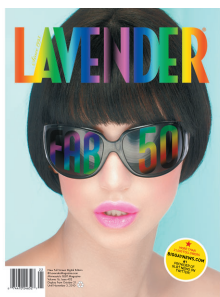


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DIALOGUE

Lavender's More Fabulous!



With this issue you're reading—our annual Fab 50—*Lavender* is more fabulous, too. You'll notice a number of changes we've made with you, our readers and advertisers, in mind.

- *Lavender* now is printed on a higher grade of glossy paper. It's whiter and brighter, which enhances the text and photos. It's less opaque, meaning a page has less bleed-through from what's on the reverse side.

- *Lavender* now is larger in size. That allows more space for editorial content. It also increases the size of ads, with no additional cost to our advertisers.

- *Lavender* now has a fresh new look as a result of a complete redesign by our Creative Department. The new text font, Century Old Style Standard, is easier to read. The cleaner, less-busy appearance also improves readability.

- *Lavender* now is distributed every other Thursday, rather than Friday as before. This new schedule gives an extra day before the weekend for readers to plan and advertisers to promote.

Now in our 16th year of serving the Twin Cities and surrounding GLBT community, *Lavender* is available online at <www.lavendermagazine.com>. Our Digital Edition, which offers the convenience of quick page-flipping, contains the exact same content and ads as the print version. **GEORGE HOLDGRAFER**

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INDICATIONS

ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV medicine used for the treatment of HIV. **ISENTRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines**, which may increase the likelihood of response to treatment.

The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

It is important that you remain under your doctor's care.

ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection or reduce your chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

IMPORTANT RISK INFORMATION

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when anti-HIV treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included nausea, headache, tiredness, weakness, trouble sleeping, stomach pain, dizziness, depression, and suicidal thoughts and actions.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

I am outgoing. I am on the go. I am a newlywed. I am HIV positive.

You are special, unique, and different from anyone else. And so is your path to managing HIV. When you're ready to start HIV therapy, talk to your doctor about a medication that may fit your needs and lifestyle.

In clinical studies lasting 96 weeks, patients being treated with HIV medication for the first time who took ISENTRESS plus *Truvada*:

- ◆ Had a low rate of side effects
 - The most common side effect of moderate to severe intensity (that interfered with or kept patients from performing daily activities) was trouble sleeping
 - This side effect occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* (4%) versus *Sustiva* plus *Truvada* (3%)
- ◆ Experienced less effect on LDL cholesterol ("bad" cholesterol)
 - Cholesterol increased an average of 7 mg/dL with ISENTRESS plus *Truvada* versus 21 mg/dL with *Sustiva* plus *Truvada*

Ask your doctor about ISENTRESS.

Not sure where to start? Visit isentress.com/questions

People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that occur with HIV infection.

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you have any allergies, are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. Women with HIV should not breast-feed because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription medicines like rifampin (a medicine used to treat infections such as tuberculosis), non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA.

Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

For more information about ISENTRESS, please read the Patient Information on the following page.

Need help paying for ISENTRESS? Call 1-866-350-9232

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Patient Information
ISENTRRESS® (eye sen tris)
(raltegravir) Tablets



Read the patient information that comes with ISENTRESS¹ before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet is a summary of the information for patients. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you additional information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is ISENTRESS?

- ISENTRESS is an anti-HIV (antiretroviral) medicine used for the treatment of HIV. The term HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. It is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). ISENTRESS is used along with other anti-HIV medicines. ISENTRESS will NOT cure HIV infection.
- People taking ISENTRESS may still develop infections, including opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection.
- Stay under the care of your doctor during treatment with ISENTRESS.
- The safety and effectiveness of ISENTRESS in children has not been studied.

ISENTRRESS must be used with other anti-HIV medicines.

How does ISENTRESS work?

- ISENTRESS blocks an enzyme which the virus (HIV) needs in order to make more virus. The enzyme that ISENTRESS blocks is called HIV integrase.
- When used with other anti-HIV medicines, ISENTRESS may do two things:
 1. Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
 2. Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4 (T) cells.
- ISENTRESS may not have these effects in all patients.

Does ISENTRESS lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

No. ISENTRESS does not reduce the chance of passing HIV to others through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood.

- Continue to practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms or other barrier methods to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids. This includes semen from a man, vaginal secretions from a woman, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

What should I tell my doctor before and during treatment with ISENTRESS?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions. Include any of the following that applies to you:

- You have any allergies.
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
 - ISENTRESS is not recommended for use during pregnancy. ISENTRESS has not been studied in pregnant women. If you take ISENTRESS while you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about how you can be included in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- You are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.
 - It is recommended that HIV-infected women should not breast-feed their infants. This is because their babies could be infected with HIV through their breast milk.
 - Talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take. Include the following:

- prescription medicines, including rifampin (a medicine used to treat some infections such as tuberculosis)
- non-prescription medicines
- vitamins
- herbal supplements

Know the medicines you take.

- Keep a list of your medicines. Show the list to your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I take ISENTRESS?

Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor has prescribed. The recommended dose is as follows:

- Take only one 400-mg tablet at a time.
- Take it twice a day.
- Take it by mouth.
- Take it with or without food.

Do not change your dose or stop taking ISENTRESS or your other anti-HIV medicines without first talking with your doctor.

IMPORTANT: Take ISENTRESS exactly as your doctor prescribed and at the right times of day because if you don't:

- The amount of virus (HIV) in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short period of time.
- The virus may develop resistance to ISENTRESS and become harder to treat.
- Your medicines may stop working to fight HIV.
- The activity of ISENTRESS may be reduced (due to resistance).

If you fail to take ISENTRESS the way you should, here's what to do:

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do NOT take two tablets of ISENTRESS at the same time. In other words, do NOT take a double dose.
- If you take too much ISENTRESS, call your doctor or local Poison Control Center.

Be sure to keep a supply of your anti-HIV medicines.

- When your ISENTRESS supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy.
- Do not wait until your medicine runs out to get more.

What are the possible side effects of ISENTRESS?

When ISENTRESS has been given with other anti-HIV drugs, side effects included:

- nausea
- headache
- tiredness
- weakness
- trouble sleeping
- stomach pain
- dizziness
- depression
- suicidal thoughts and actions

Other side effects include rash, severe skin reactions, feeling anxious, paranoia, low blood platelet count.

A condition called Immune Reconstitution Syndrome can happen in some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS) when combination antiretroviral treatment is started. Signs and symptoms of inflammation from opportunistic infections that a person has or had may occur as the medicines work to treat the HIV infection and help to strengthen the immune system. Call your doctor right away if you notice any signs or symptoms of an infection after starting ISENTRESS with other anti-HIV medicines.

Contact your doctor promptly if you experience unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness while taking ISENTRESS. This is because on rare occasions, muscle problems can be serious and can lead to kidney damage.

Rash occurred more often in patients taking ISENTRESS and darunavir together than with either drug separately, but was generally mild.

Tell your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you.

These are not all the side effects of ISENTRESS. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How should I store ISENTRESS?

- Store ISENTRESS at room temperature (68 to 77°F).
- **Keep ISENTRESS and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

General information about the use of ISENTRESS

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets.

- Do not use ISENTRESS for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not give ISENTRESS to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet gives you the most important information about ISENTRESS.

- If you would like to know more, talk with your doctor.
- You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for additional information about ISENTRESS that is written for health professionals.
- For more information go to www.ISENTRESS.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

What are the ingredients in ISENTRESS?

Active ingredient: Each film-coated tablet contains 400 mg of raltegravir.

Inactive ingredients: Microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate, calcium phosphate dibasic anhydrous, hypromellose 2208, poloxamer 407 (contains 0.01% butylated hydroxytoluene as antioxidant), sodium stearyl fumarate, magnesium stearate. In addition, the film coating contains the following inactive ingredients: polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, talc, red iron oxide and black iron oxide.

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Revised June 2010
9795110
U.S. Patent Nos. US 7,169,780



Pfarr Is New Executive Director of The Bridge for Youth



DANIEL F. PFARR recently was named Executive Director of The Bridge for Youth. Currently celebrating its 40th anniversary, the organization provides assistance to runaway and homeless youth, including walk-in counseling and emergency shelter. Pfarr spent 15 years at Bolder Options, a youth mentoring program, where he was an Associate Director since 2003. He graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a MSW in Clinical Social Work.

Daniel Pfarr. Photo Courtesy of The Bridge for Youth



Passing: Kimberly Schave (1957-2010)



KIMBERLEY SHAVE, 52, passed away August 13 at his home in Royal Palm Beach, Florida. He was proud of his 35 years of service at Red Lobster. He supported various organizations such as District 202. Schave is survived by his partner, Craig; daughters, Jennifer, Vanessa, and Krista; and other family and friends. Donations may be sent to District 202, PO Box 8139, St. Paul, MN 55108.

Kim Schave. Photo Courtesy of Kim Schave Family

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Are you getting ready to start taking HIV medications?

Researchers from the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Minnesota are looking for HIV+ and HIV- people to participate in research studies.

The aim of these studies is to find out why HIV persists and can't be cured with HIV drugs.

You do not need to be on HIV drugs to qualify.

Several opportunities are available and depending upon the study, you may be started on HIV drugs or your current drug regimen may be adjusted. Compensation and time requirements vary based on the study for which you may qualify.

If you are interested in participating, have any questions, or would like more information about current studies, visit **www.hiv.umn.edu** or call **612-625-7472**



UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA



2010



FAB 50

LAVENDER'S FAB 50

THE PEOPLE, PLACES, BUSINESSES, AND EVENTS THAT MAKE THE TWIN CITIES METRO FABULOUS FOR THE TWIN CITIES GLBT COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR, A RECORD 7,300-PLUS READERS CAST VOTES FOR FAVORITES IN EACH CATEGORY.

Contributing Writers: E.B. Boatner • Heidi Fellner • George Holdgrafer • John Townsend • Bradley Traynor

1

GLBT NEWS SOURCE

BIGGAYNEWS.COM

Lavender's own podcaster, Bradley Traynor, is on the spot every day—available not only in English, but also in Chinese, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish—covering ongoing and breaking GLBT news worldwide. *Lavender* readers never need fear missing out on the latest happenings in politics, culture, and sports.

EBB

**BIG
GAY
NEWS
COM**
WITH BRADLEY TRAYNOR

3

HIV/AIDS ORGANIZATION

MINNESOTA AIDS PROJECT

Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP)'s 1,000-plus volunteers and a devoted staff address the needs of almost half of the 6,000 Minnesotans living with HIV/AIDS. This statewide nonprofit agency advocates for their civil rights. It provides practical, emotional, and social support, as well as prevention education, legal consultation, emergency financial assistance, and testing site information.

JT

4

PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATION

PFUND

The three pillars of PFund's social justice programming and projects throughout the Upper Midwest are equality, safety, and community. Annually, it provides more than \$80,000 to GLBT and GLBT-serving organizations. Its Racial Equity Initiative has been especially constructive in expanding GLBT understanding and leadership in communities of color.

JT

5

FUNDRAISER

DINING OUT FOR LIFE

Spring brings a day and evening on the last Thursday in April on which more than 150 Minnesota eateries contribute a portion of their proceeds for crucial HIV/AIDS services provided by The Aliveness Project. If you're on a fixed income or wealthy, whether you order salad or prime rib, you make a difference.

JT

2



POLITICIAN

**SENATOR
AMY KLOBUCHAR**

Though Minnesota's first woman US Senator, Amy Klobuchar, is too cautious for some, she supports civil unions, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), hospital visitation and inheritance rights for GLBT partners, and antibullying legislation. She's against a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as between a man and a woman.

JT

Photo by Hubert Bonnet

6 PLACE TO WORK GENERAL MILLS

This company introduced domestic-partner benefits in 1999, and included gender identity in its nondiscrimination policy in 2004. It supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Elisa Shue, Cochair of Betty's Family, its GLBT workplace group, says, "General Mills continuously strives for a fully inclusive workplace where employees can bring their whole selves to work every day."

JT

7 THEATER ORPHEUM THEATRE

The 1929 inaugural performance at this glorious Beaux Arts-style edifice, then called "The Hennepin," included the Marx Brothers. Opening-week attendance was 70,000. In 1993, a \$10 million, 2,579 seat restoration ensured that it would be a magnet for iconic shows and performances of our own time like *Wicked* and *Lisa Lampanelli*.

JT

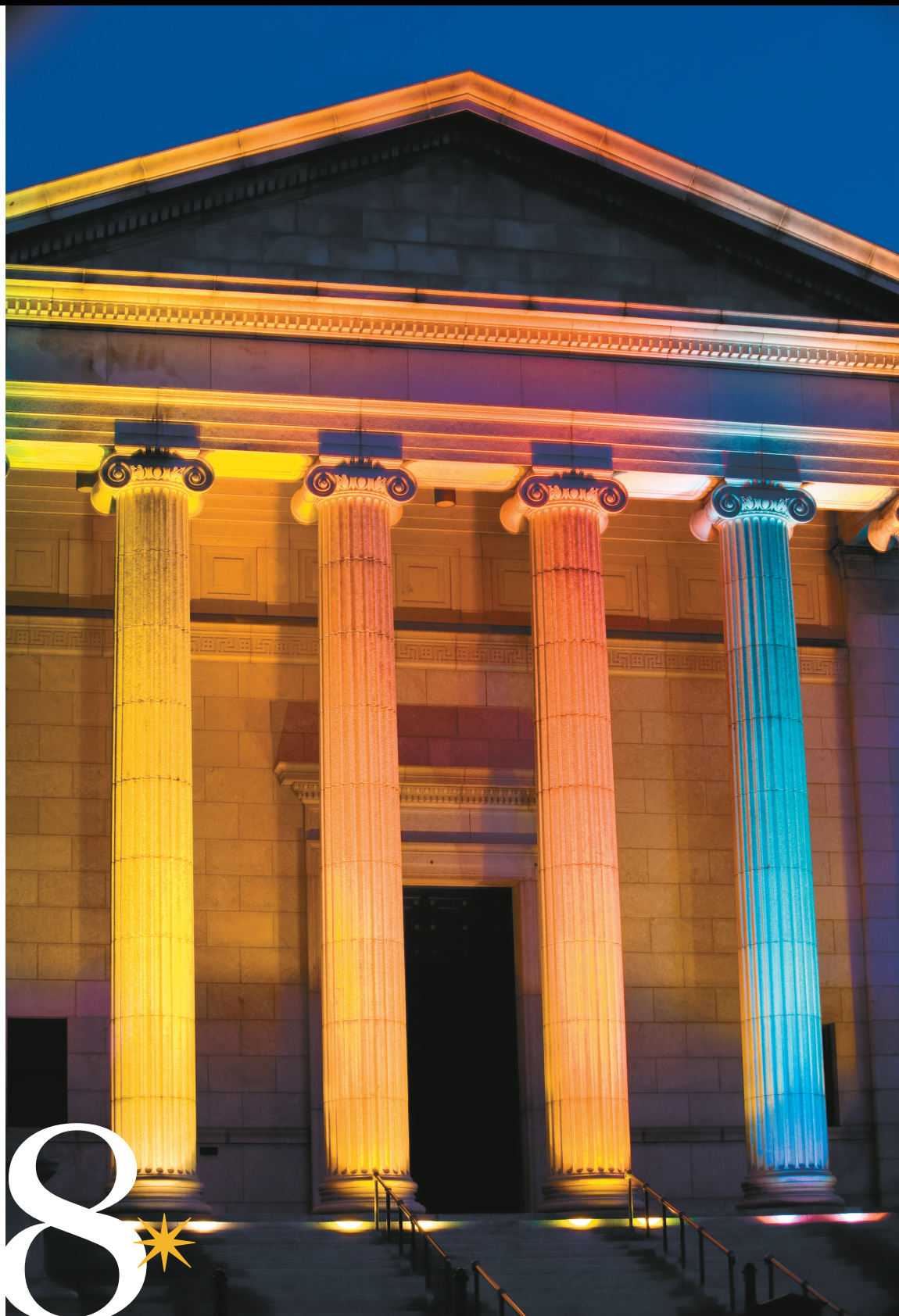


Photo by Hubert Bonnet

ART GALLERY

MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

No richer or more comprehensive overview of art exists between Chicago and the West Coast. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts exhibits splendid nude sculptures and homoerotic imagery. Impressionism, Expressionism, Americana, Tribal, and mystical Eastern art infuse the mind and senses. Historical period rooms evoke the very textures of centuries and societies long gone.

JT

9 ★ **MOVIE THEATER** **SHOWPLACE ICON**

In St. Louis Park, an elegant concept in film viewing awaits. Savor a cocktail before your screening, and, if you desire, take it to your reserved seat. Experience hot new cinematic technology or a recent offbeat film. Nostalgia hounds can catch classics or the Metropolitan Opera in HD Live.

JT



10 ★ **RADIO STATION** **FM 107.1**

Dishing the dirt as you commute to work, myTalk FM 107.1 radio serves it up. Lori and Julia are Chatty Cathy legends. Jason & Alexis's Jason Matheson brings a gay perspective, as does the vibrant Bradley Traynor (AKA *Lavender's Wanda Wisdom*), who sometimes fills in for him.

JT

11 ★ **TV CHANNEL** **BRAVO**

A dazzling roster of classy, stylish, well-dressed programs like *Project Runway* and *Tim Gunn's Guide to Style* assure an inevitable big gay audience. Kathy Griffin's brazen reality show delights those who love irreverence. Inside the Actors Studio is beloved by theater queens. It's the channel for those with taste!

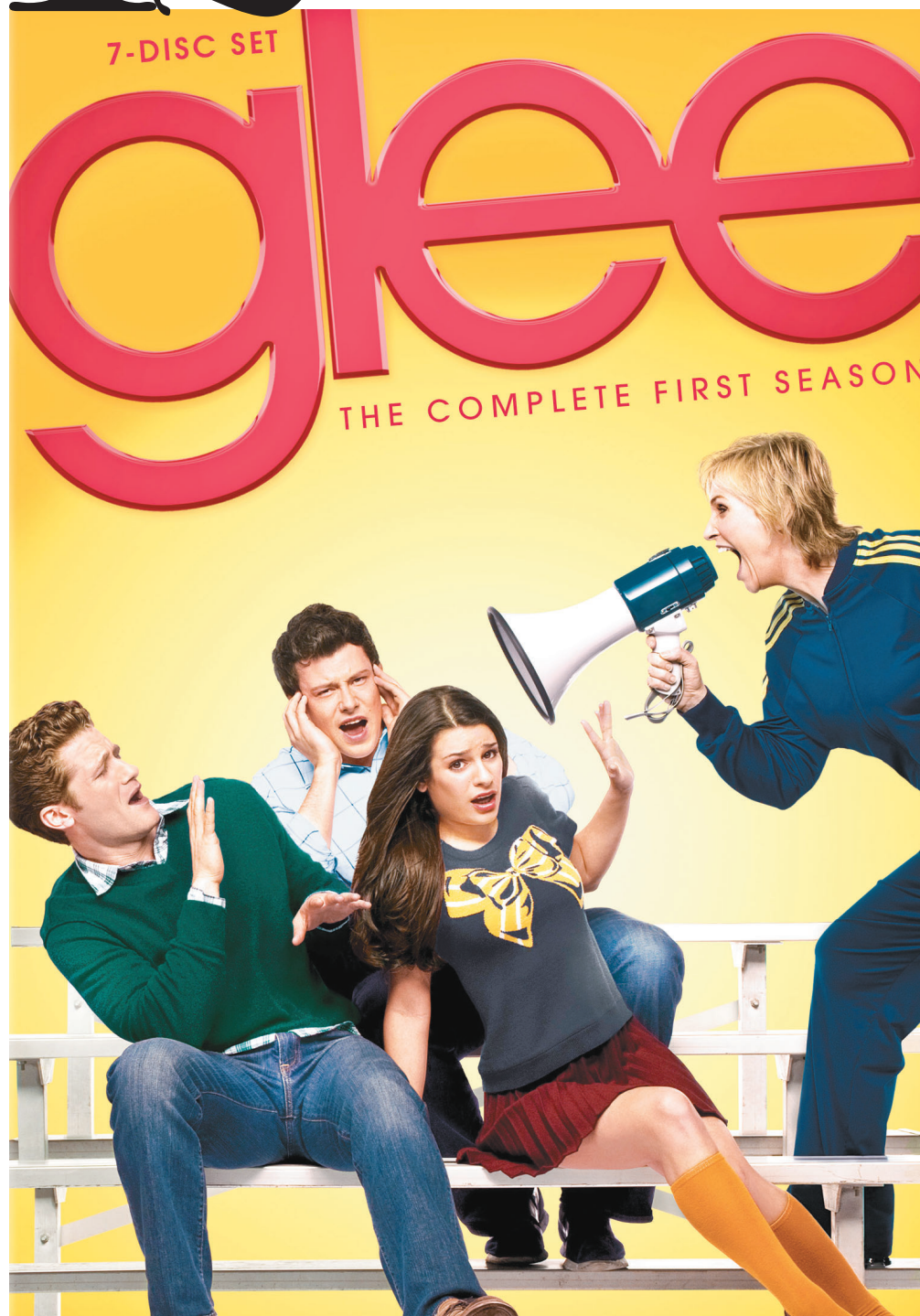
JT



12 ★ **TV SHOW** **GLEE**

The high-school-gee-club setting of this splendid Golden Globe-winning show cuts right to the marrow of our time: a loving relationship between a gay son and his dad; religious tolerance issues; and the cult of Lady Gaga and *Twilight*. Yet, the past also resonates with crackerjack renditions of classic tunes.

JT



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SPEAKING OF TREATS...

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Halloween Events.

FantasyGifts.com

13[★] GLBT BAR TICKLES

Although it only has been open just shy of two years, Tickles has soared to Fab GLBT Bar in the view of *Lavender* readers. That's not surprising, given the establishment's great staff, great drinks, and great food. Tickles made a smart move when it relocated to Downtown Minneapolis last New Year's Eve.

GH



14[★] BAR TO MEET MEN 19 BAR

For nearly 60 years, gay men have been connecting at the 19 Bar, which gave the place a clear edge for Fab Bar To Meet Men. Whether it's playing pool in the bar or enjoying the year-round patio, opportunities abound to strike up a conversation with that guy you've had your eye on.

GH



15[★] BAR TO MEET WOMEN TOWN HOUSE

Women have been rendezvousing at the Town House for 41 years, and it's still the Fab Bar To Meet Women among *Lavender* readers. With marvelous bartenders like Mickey, plus karaoke five nights a week, no wonder this St. Paul mainstay remains a popular gathering place for the local women's community.

GH



16[★] BARTENDER CHRIS MELLGREN

Gladius, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, quickly has made a name for itself, in no small part because of its awesome staff. Our readers obviously have paid attention to Chris Mellgren's good looks, conversational prowess, and drink-mixing skill, as he is their undisputed choice for Fab Bartender.

GH

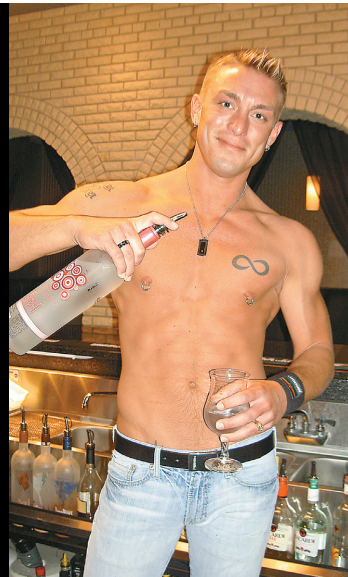


Photo by George Holdgrafer

17[★] DJ NATER D

Spinning his unique mixes of Top 40 house music, Fab DJ Nater D presides over the Gay 90's Dance Annex Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. He also DJs in the Retro Bar on Friday evening. You always can depend on him to keep the appreciative dance-floor crowd happily tired on their feet.

GH

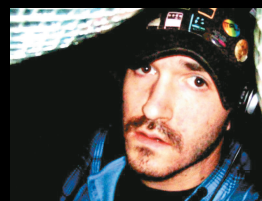


Photo Courtesy of Nater D

18[★] HAPPY HOUR BRASS RAIL

Completely remodeled just a year ago, the Brass Rail offers an attractive ambience for unwinding when you're through with work. How can you beat its fabulous daily happy hour, which features \$2.75 rail cocktails and domestic bottles? Add a friendly staff, and you have the reason *Lavender* readers awarded it Fab Happy Hour.

GH



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PFund Foundation is proud to be voted 2010 FAB Philanthropic Organization by Lavender Magazine readers. We increased our number of donors **by almost 30%** this year, and offer a roaring thanks to all of you for your support. Our work advancing social justice for LGBT communities could not move forward without you.

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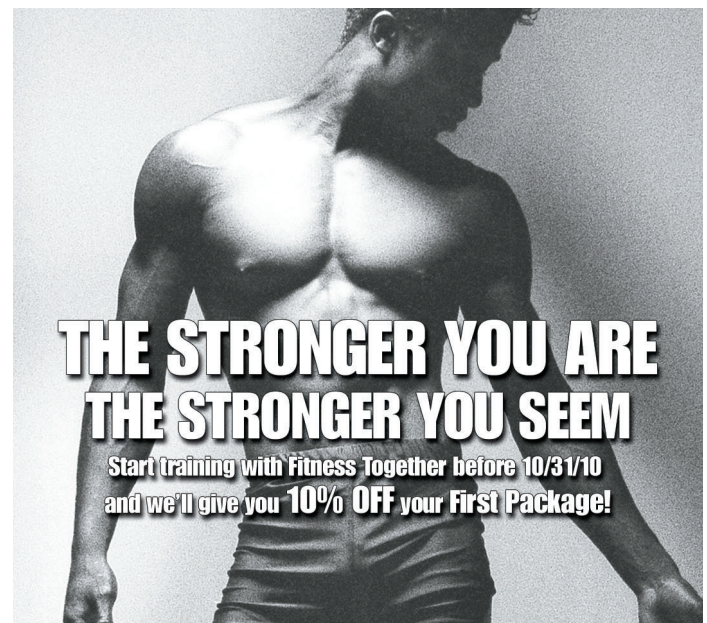


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19 GAYEST RESTAURANT

WILDE ROAST CAFÉ

A restaurant named after Oscar Wilde had no close competition for this high honor. Serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, it is decorated sumptuously with a nod to the Victorian Age. Indeed, one could picture the great man himself enjoying a glass of wine here, near the roaring fire.

HF

21 RESTAURANT FOR ROMANCE

CRAVE

"Go big or go home" must have been the mantra of Crave's creators. This swanky destination restaurant transports its guests into a fantasy world where sushi, Mediterranean, American, and Asian cuisine happily coexist. A varied menu eases the pressure on a first date, while the generous pours do the rest.

HF

22 RESTAURANT TO PEOPLE-WATCH

UPTOWN CAFETERIA

With its long, brightly-lit counters, Uptown Cafeteria—which, despite its name, actually isn't a real cafeteria—has daily specials that always include fresh eye candy. Should you need them, beer goggles are dirt-cheap during happy hour, running Monday through Saturday, 2-6 PM and 10 PM-Midnight, plus all day Sunday.

HF

23 OUTDOOR DINING

LORING KITCHEN & BAR

This yearling restaurant cleverly capitalizes on its location with two outdoor dining areas, granting its patrons excellent views of Loring Park. During a rush in summer months, the porch and patio both fill up quickly, so if you're heading there for the scenery, be sure to plan ahead.

HF

20 NEW RESTAURANT

HAUTE DISH

Haute Dish, in the Minneapolis District, is the new thing in fine dining, not only by seniority, but also by its very concept. Chef Landon Schoenefeld took the culinary road less-traveled—quite literally. Instead of inspiration from foreign shores, he has elevated Midwestern cuisine. The result is approachable, affordable, and—above all—inspirational.

HF



Photo by Hubert Bonnet



24 RESTAURANT PATIO SEVEN'S ROOFTOP

Restaurateur David Koch has been bringing Minneapolis its sexy back, one block at a time. Seven's rooftop "Skybar" is a hotspot for roving singles, jetsetters, and the occasional celebrity. The food and libations are notable, but it is Koch's penchant for a dramatic atmosphere that sets Seven apart.

HF

25 WINE BAR TOAST WINE BAR

A wine bar that one can visit in stocking feet? It's hardly surprising that Toast made the list of favorites. With an excellent yet reasonably-priced selection of unique wines and delectable food, along with friendly staff to match, this is Minneapolis hospitality at its finest.

HF

26 DINER UPTOWN DINER

When you just *have* to have an insanely large plate of Eggs Benedict after bar close, you'll find no better place to go than the Uptown Diner. Of course, a lot of other people will have the same idea, so do yourself a favor, and get there early.

HF

27 BREAKFAST SPOT EDINA GRILL

Its made-from-scratch kitchen, serving fresh, often organic ingredients, uses high-quality ingredients to transform the Midwestern breakfast from humble necessity into affordable luxury. From Irish Oatmeal (laced with maple-glazed apple relish and cream) to a breakfast version of Mexican Chilaquiles, the Edina Grill has something for just about anyone.

HF

SH



28 HEALTHY/VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT COMMON ROOTS CAFÉ

Almost from the moment it opened, Common Roots Café has been filled with customers morning, noon, and night. Its location at the corner of 26th and Lyndale in Minneapolis is certainly a draw, but a from-scratch menu of local, seasonal, and sustainably-farmed produce keeps customers coming back for more.
HF

29 BAKERY SALTY TART

Smack-dab in the middle of Midtown Global Market is a sweet little hideaway of fresh-baked pastry bliss. Salty Tart Bakery boasts a beautiful array of housemade breads, sweet and savory pastries, custom cakes, fresh sandwiches, and even seasonal soups. It's clear that acclaimed Pastry Chef Michelle Gayer has found her niche.
BT

30 COFFEE SHOP DUNN BROS

With a venti iced-mocha latte frappuccino double half-caf' no foam cookie-cutter coffee shop on every corner, the warm and comfy cozy charm of the local Dunn Bros is a real breath of fresh roasted air. Best of all, every caffeinated cup comes from sustainable, quality beans roasted right onsite.
BT

31 ICE CREAM SEBASTIAN JOE'S

The sweet small-batch splendor of Sebastian Joe's homemade ice cream comforts late-night cravings, and dazzles date-night dessert stops. From simple scoops to sexy sundaes and just-baked goodies, no shortage of yummy, double-dipped fun is to be had. Happily, the flavors are many, and the fat-free options are few.
BT

Photo by Hubert Bonnet



32 LIQUOR & WINE STORE SURDYK'S

Ever since Prohibition finally petered out, Minneapolis has had a Surdyk's to whet its wine and spirit whistle. Beyond the basic Bordeaux and blended Scotch, Surdyk's boasts an international cheese selection that would make any cheesehound weepy. And the wine sales...clean out the trunk before you go!
BT

33 GROCERY STORE BYERLY'S

When the loud, crazy, cart-crowded aisles of a big-box supermarket is the last place on Earth you want to spend your time gathering groceries, be thankful for Byerly's. Fresh flowers, homemade dinners, and supertasty baked goods ensure even a quick trip to the market will make you a hit at home.
BT

34 SOCIAL NETWORK MANHUNT.NET

Why waste time using personals that don't cater to the gay community, and never give quick, easy access, when a website was created just for you? With more than 50,000 hot gay gentlemen online at any given time, snagging the man of your dreams is just a mouse-click away.

EBB



35 PRO SPORTS TEAM MINNESOTA TWINS

After 29 years in the Metrodome, the Twins burst into brand-spanking-new Target Field, playing to sellout crowds, and winning the American League Central Division Championship. *Lavender's* 2010 Out in the Stands drew 500 fans, so no wonder the Twins are the choice of *Lavender* readers for Fab Pro Sports Team.

EBB



37 GAYBORHOOD WAREHOUSE DISTRICT/ NORTH LOOP

The Minneapolis Warehouse District/North Loop once was an industrial hub and commercial center. Then, boom to bust and boom again, as 1970s artists rediscovered the area. Today, it abounds with unique dwellings, bar life, theater shows, and fine dining. Plus, it's within a stone's throw of a Minnesota Twins game.

EBB

36 GLBT SPORTS ORGANIZATION TWIN CITIES GOODTIME SOFTBALL LEAGUE

This organization's motto says it all: "Celebrating 32 years of gay softball in Minnesota." One of the largest leagues in the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) Open Division invites you to join more than 500 GLBT athletes and their friends on 35 teams to play ball—or just watch.

EBB

Photo by Sophia Hantzes



39 WINTER VACATION CARIBBEAN CRUISE

Turn up the heat in the depths of Minnesota's chilly winter. Choose a Caribbean cruise line—several are gay-friendly—and stake out a deck chair with a good view of the passing fauna. What better way to warm the cockles of your heart than a hot new friendship and a cold piña colada?

EBB

40 SUMMER VACATION SAN FRANCISCO

The Golden Gate Bridge, Coit Tower, cable cars, Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf...the Castro. All in all, San Francisco has most everything *Lavender* readers could want on a summer vacation—at temperatures considerably under 90 degrees. It offers GLBT travelers a full panoply of gay-friendly hotels, restaurants, clubs, and bars.

EBB



41 SHOPPING MALL MOA

It's extreme shopping, aerobic exercise, food festival, and ongoing human comedy—all in one. With more than 500 specialty stores, 50 restaurants, 7 nightclubs, and 14 theaters—attracting upward of 40 million visits annually—MOA is an experience not to be missed, especially during the holiday crush. FFI: Visit <www.mallofamerica.com>.

EBB

42 OUTLET SHOPPING ALBERTVILLE

It has something for everyone—and more. Book a tour, and take your posse—groups of 15 or more receive free VIP Coupon Books upon arrival for exponentially grand shopping opportunities. Adidas, Ann Taylor, Eddie Bauer Outlet, Polo Ralph Lauren, and Tommy Hilfiger are just a few stars in its firmament.

EBB

38 WEEKEND GETAWAY DULUTH-SUPERIOR

This year, Duluth-Superior Pride marked its 24th anniversary with a four-day event in the Twin Ports that attracted thousands. Don't worry if you missed it. Duluth-Superior remains a scant 150 miles away. Its bars and restaurants—judging by the vote of *Lavender* readers—earn high marks for a prime weekend getaway in any season.

EBB



43 MEN'S CLOTHING STORE LEN DRUSKIN

This store in the Galleria in Edina offers the "right look" for the right men, boosting its *Lavender* rating to Fab. Following in Len Druskin's footsteps after 30 years, his son, Michael, handpicks the clothier's signature eclectic mix from a wide range of fabrics and styles, always on the cutting edge.

EBB



Photo by Mike Hnida

44 WOMEN'S CLOTHING STORE HERBERGER'S

Herberger's, which started when G.R. "Bob" Herberger opened his first store in 1927, has expanded to become a Fab clothing choice for *Lavender's* women readers. Heed its motto: "Come to the right place!" From active-wear to dress-up formal, it leads the way in variety and pricing. Find a nearby store at <www.herbergers.com/shop/women>.

EBB

45 SALON OR BARBER SHOP BARBERS ON BRYANT

Brian Preston and Audie Howe's "new-fashioned" Barbers on Bryant is the best coiffure-cutting deal in all of Uptown. Where else can you get a classic cut or shave for only 15 bucks? They take pride in their work, and from the looks on the faces and scalps of their repeat customers, it shows.

BT

Barbers
on
Bryant

46 GYM LA FITNESS

With its brand-new, superconvenient Uptown location, plus others metrowide, LA Fitness is a perfect way to add some calorie-burning butt-kicking to your busy schedule. Sweat-inducing classes and state-of-the-art equipment at an unbelievably low price conspire to create a perfect storm for fitness lovers at all levels.

BT



Photo by Hubert Bonnet

47 BIKE SHOP **ERIK'S BIKE SHOP**

If passion for your product or service is the key to a successful business, no wonder this shop is the best of the best. Owner Erik's love of two-wheeled transport shows in the care and quality customers get. You're not just buying a bike—you're gaining a friend...who happens to be really good with bikes.

BT

49 PLACE TO BUY HOME FURNISHINGS **ROOM & BOARD**

Creating beautiful, functional, and inviting interiors with quality-crafted furniture and accessories sets Room & Board apart from the competition. Well-appointed room galleries, along with a friendly, knowledgeable design team, guarantee that your home reflects the unique style and sensibility you long to share with friends and family.

BT

48 FLORAL & GARDEN **TANGLETOWN GARDENS**

Wander through this wondrous South Minneapolis garden center, and you'll begin to appreciate why Tangle Town Gardens is in a league of its own. From comprehensive landscape design to locally-grown plants and produce (don't forget to sign up for one of its new CSA shares), Tangle Town towers over any other garden-variety greenhouse.

BT

50 ADULT TOYS **FANTASY GIFTS**

Naughty, bawdy boudoir fun is the bread and butter of Fantasy Gifts. The stunning selection of sexual-wellness products proves the stores don't care how your bread is buttered, as long as it's fun and safe. From bachelorette parties to more private engagements, Fantasy Gifts has something for every taste, type, and touch.

BT

BIG GAY NEWS

LOCAL

ARCHBISHOP NIENSTEDT DENIES COMMUNION TO RAINBOW BUTTON PROTESTERS

The Associated Press reports that Minneapolis-St. Paul Roman Catholic Archbishop John C. Nienstedt denied communion to about 25 college students and others at St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, in late September. He did so because they wore rainbow buttons and sashes in protest of the church's opposition to same-sex marriage. The story came to light just as the church's Minnesota bishops mailed 400,000 anti-gay-marriage DVDs to Catholics throughout the state.

NATIONAL

NEW YORK REPUBLICAN GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE STUNS WITH ANTIGAY SPEECH

According to *The New York Times*, New York Republican gubernatorial candidate Carl Paladino told a gathering of Orthodox Jewish leaders in early October that children should not be taught homosexuality is acceptable. He also criticized the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, for attending a Gay Pride Parade. Paladino said, "I just think my children and your children would be much better off and much more successful getting married and raising a family, and I don't want them brainwashed into thinking that homosexuality is an equally valid and successful option—it isn't."

WORLD

VIOLENT RIOTERS ATTACK GAY PRIDE PARADE IN SERBIA

The Associated Press reports that Serbian riot police fought with thousands of right-wing rioters in early October, as they tried to disrupt a Gay Pride March through Downtown Belgrade. The violence escalated as extremists—chanting "Death to homosexuals"—hurled Molotov cocktails and stun grenades at marchers. More than 140 people were injured, and more than 200 were arrested. The march was a test for the Serbian government, which promised to protect participants—a first for the nation, as it seeks membership in the European Union. **WRITTEN & COMPILED BY BRADLEY TRAYNOR**

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District 5: **Keith Ellison**
District 6: **Tarryl Clark**

Minn Legislature:

7B: **Kerry Gauthier**
9A: **Greg Lemke**
20A: **Tina Liebling**
37: **Mike Germain**
37A: **Derrick Lindstrom**
44B: **Ryan Winkler**
48A: **Laurie Olmon**
58: **Linda Higgins**
59A: **Diane Loeffler**
59B: **Phyllis Kahn**
60: **Scott Dibble**
60A: **Marion Greene**
60B: **Frank Hornstein**
61: **Linda Berglin**
61A: **Karen Clark**
62: **Patricia Torres Ray**
63: **Ken Kelash**
63A: **Linda Slocum**
64A: **Erin Murphy**
66A: **John Lesch**
67: **John Harrington**

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District 5: **Peter McLaughlin**

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District 5: **Rafael Ortega**

St. Louis County:

Dist. 6: **Lorrie Janatopoulos**

Minneapolis School Board:

Citywide: **Dick Mammen**
Chanda S Baker
District 1: **Jenny Arneson**
District 3: **Hussein Samatar**
District 5: **Alb. Monserrate**

See more: www.StonewallDFL.org

Paid for by Stonewall DFL, Andy Hauer, Treasurer.

NEWS ♦



HRC DECLARES MINNESOTA “NUMBER-ONE BATTLEGROUND FOR TOLERANCE” AS ELECTION DAY APPROACHES

This year's Election Day, on November 2, is the culmination of a number of political races crucial for the GLBT community.

In fact, Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Press Secretary Michael Cole recently pointed out, “The State of Minnesota is quickly becoming the number-one battleground for tolerance in the wake of a series of statements from leaders opposing basic protections for LGBT people.”

Cole cited Roman Catholic Archbishop John C. Nienstedt's refusal to give communion to students wearing rainbow buttons at St. John's University in Collegeville; Minnesota Family Council President Tom Prichard's statement that “youth who embrace homosexuality are at greater risk [of suicide] because they've embraced an unhealthy identity or lifestyle”; and Republican Candidate for Governor Tom Emmer's appearing in a new documentary produced by rabidly antigay radio host Bradlee Dean.

The most important state contest is for a new Minnesota Governor to succeed antigay Republican incumbent Tim Pawlenty, who did not seek re-election. Gubernatorial candidates Mark Dayton (Democrat) and Tom Horner (Independent) are both GLBT-supportive. Emmer is vehemently antigay. The winner would have the power to either sign or veto pro-gay legislation passed by the Legislature.

At stake this year are both houses of the Minnesota Legislature, currently under Democratic control. Lesbian State Representative Karen Clark (Democrat),

who first was elected to the Minnesota House in 1980, and gay State Senator Scott Dibble (Democrat) both are seeking re-election in Minneapolis. Gay Democrat Kerry Gauthier, who was elected to the Duluth City Council for the first time just a year ago, is running for the open seat in House District 7B.

In Minnesota Congressional races, the key one, of course—which nationally is being watched closely—is in the Sixth District, where archhomophobic Republican incumbent Representative Michele Bachmann is opposed by gay-friendly Democrat Tarryl Clark.

Other positions to be voted on in the 2010 election: Hennepin County Commissioners; Ramsey County Commissioners, County Attorney, and Sheriff; St. Louis County Commissioner; Minneapolis School Board Members; Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justices; and Minnesota Court of Appeals Judges.

As HRC President Joe Solmonese put it, “The stakes couldn't be higher in Minnesota between moving toward an inclusive and welcoming state versus creating an environment where LGBT youth are told they're not worthy of being considered full citizens. It's time for fair-minded Minnesotans to stand up, and say, ‘Enough is enough.’”

For information on polling locations and same-day voter registration, call the League of Women Voters Minnesota/5 EYEWITNESS NEWS General Election Hotline on November 2 at (651) 646-1699 or (800) 555-8772. **GEORGE HOLDGRAFER**



MARK DAYTON AND THE DFL PARTY WILL STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT AND REPRESENT MINNESOTA VALUES IN OFFICE.

ON NOVEMBER 2, VOTE EQUALITY FOR ALL MINNESOTANS: **VOTE DFL!**

In the wake of a rash of suicides around the country — and in our backyard — it is clear that we need to protect the safety of our LGBT students.

- ★ We must eliminate toxic school environments that are contributing to the deaths of innocent children. These tragedies are entirely preventable: **schools need to protect our students so they feel safe.**

- ★ Republican gubernatorial candidate **Tom Emmer** voted against **LGBT-inclusive anti-bullying legislation** in the Minnesota legislature.

- ★ We need a strong **Safe Schools bill** that would give our educators the tools they need to effectively deal with bullying towards LGBT students.



"Bullying in schools based on a young person's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity has grown to terrible proportions and the consequences of those actions are severe. No students should be driven to take their own lives simply because of who they are. I stand with Senator Al Franken to pass strong, anti-bullying measures here in Minnesota and nationwide. As Governor, I will fight for and sign a tougher Safe Schools bill. The time is now to speak out, lead, and act to protect all Minnesota's youth."

— **Sen. Mark Dayton**

To continue our march towards equality, it is vital that we elect fair-minded candidates to all levels of public office.

VOTE EQUALITY. VOTE DFL.



YOUR OFFICIAL DFL SAMPLE BALLOT

GOVERNOR / LT. GOVERNOR:

☒ **Mark Dayton and Yvonne Prettner Solon**

SECRETARY OF STATE:

☒ **Mark Ritchie**

STATE AUDITOR:

☒ **Rebecca Otto**

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

☒ **Lori Swanson**

LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS WIN COURT VICTORY IN DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

Six years after initially filing its case, Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) won a legal victory in September when US District Court Judge Virginia Phillips ruled that Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the US military's ban on openly gay service members, was unconstitutional.

The victory expanded on October 12 when Phillips issued a worldwide injunction requiring the military "immediately to suspend and discontinue any investigation, or discharge, separation, or other proceeding, that may have been commenced under the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell Act.'"

LCR Deputy Executive Director Christian Berle said, "After finding in *Log Cabin Republicans v. United States* that Don't Ask, Don't Tell violates service members' First and Fifth Amendment rights, a worldwide injunction was the only reasonable solution.

These soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen sacrifice so much in defense of our nation and our Constitution. It is imperative that their constitutional freedoms be protected as well.

"This decision is also a victory for all who support a strong national defense. No longer will our military be compelled to discharge service members with valuable skills and experience because of an archaic policy mandating irrational discrimination. The United States is stronger because of this injunction, and Log Cabin Republicans is proud to have brought the case that made it possible."

The case was filed in 2004, because, according to LCR then, "This country is now fighting two wars, and gay and lesbian members of our Armed Forces are serving their country honorably, and dying on the battlefield, even as the US military officially continues to bar them from service."

LCR argued that Don't Ask, Don't Tell violates a service member's First Amendment right to free speech and Fifth Amendment right to due process. Phillips agreed.

Despite Phillips's historic ruling, the ban may live on. The US Department of Justice on October 14 asked the Ninth US Circuit Court to Appeals to grant an emergency stay of Phillips's decision to halt all discharges under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell law.

In another case important to the GLBT community, the Department appealed a federal judge's ruling that a portion of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was unconstitutional.

The department asserted that it has "a long-standing practice of defending federal statutes when they are challenged in court, including by appealing adverse decisions of lower courts." **BRADLEY TRAYNOR**

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Photo by: Jina Noonan

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Spilling Me Softly: Or Once the Gulf Goes Black, It Never Goes Back. Photo by Joe Lampi

***Spilling Me Softly: or Once the Gulf Goes Black, It Never Goes Back* • Through Oct. 30**

Brave New Workshop, 2605 Hennepin Ave. S., Mpls. • (612) 332-6620 • <www.bravenewworkshop.com>

More inspired by the film *Inception* than the oil cataclysm, this sharply-acted revue boldly addresses Michele Bachmann's homophobia, Tom Emmer's tipping debacle, and Tea Party absurdities. It marks a double-growth spurt for director Caleb McEwen, who brings an uncharacteristic but effective surrealist edge to this show. He also codirects *Dudley: Rigged for Success*, History Theatre's current wonderful biocomedy on Brave New Workshop founder Dudley Riggs.

Iris

Through Oct. 24

Red Eye Theater
15 W. 14th St., Mpls.
(612) 870-0309
www.redeyetheater.org

The Trojan War defined Ancient Greece. The abduction of Helen by Trojan Paris "launched a thousand ships," and destroyed countless lives. Polarizing gender norms were calcified. Playwright Kevin Kautzman rethinks the catastrophe.

Director Steve Busa wonders, "Is this a new war? In truth, hasn't there always been only one war that we fight over and over again?"

Anon

Through Oct. 30

Gremlin Theatre
2400 University Ave. W., St. Paul
(612) 227-1188
www.tctwentypercent.org

Sex addiction is such a touchy topic that some argue its very existence. But the Internet, along with probing portrayals like Michael Douglas's in *Solitary Man*, show that a demand for discussion exists. Kate Robin's play *Anon* looks into concerns like pedophilia fantasies, exhibitionism, and notions of incest.

20% Twin Cities Artistic Director Claire Aitable points



Michele! The Musical Bachumannary
Photo by Jesse Doughty

out, "Sex addiction is rarely, if ever, shown onstage. I think bringing it to light could also

be thought of as taboo, and I'm sure many companies would shy away from scripts such as this one."

Michele! The Musical Bachumannary

Through Oct. 30

Theatre Garage
711 W. Franklin Ave., Mpls.
(800) 838-3006
www.brownpapertickets.com

2010's best comedy revue dares to go there—that being Janet Paone's droll, daring, and delicious crossgender turn as the unmistakably repressed gay husband of a freakily religious Minnesota Congresswoman. Paone also titillates as a latent lesbian "madam" type who advises the wacky US Representative. Laura Adams's vibrant Michele is rivetingly inane.

In a savage musical nod to *Annie*, Michael Paul Levin and James Detmar shine as well in crossgender turns as two "knocked-up" foster kids of the politician and her husband. Ahna Brandvik Logan delights in various roles.

John Gaspard's video/film design and Michael Erickson's music are marvelous.

Blithe Spirit

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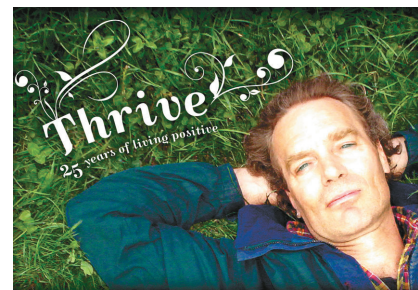
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ARTS ♦ ON THE TOWNSEND



Thrive! 25 Years of Living Positive.
Photo by Kevin Kortan

Britain's Early-20th-Century upper crust were socially-defined.

Obie-winning director Maxine Klein observes, "In *Blithe Spirit*, it's as if the characters stepped out of their definitions and onto the stage to delight and surprise their audience."

Lavender columnist Julie Dafydd plays the coveted role of zany and mystical Madame Arcati.

Thrive! 25 Years of Living Positive Through Nov. 7

Patrick's Cabaret
3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls.
(612) 205-1512
www.patrickscabaret.org

When legendary iconoclastic performer Patrick Scully learned he was HIV-positive, he thought it was a death sentence. But 25 years later, he emerges with a new performance work about it.

Scully shares, "I am very much still here! I hope in hearing my story, other people will find resonance, or perhaps dissonance, in their lives. Either way, I hope it will cause them to reflect on their own lives. Another impulse is my desire to collectively remember my comrades who did not make it. Our community was transformed by the tragic early loss of so many shining stars. Also, things like the culture wars of the '80s and '90s may actively fade from memory if we do not actively seek to pass this history on. Or even worse, these stories may only be told and recorded by those who sought to keep our voices silent."

JOHN TOWNSEND

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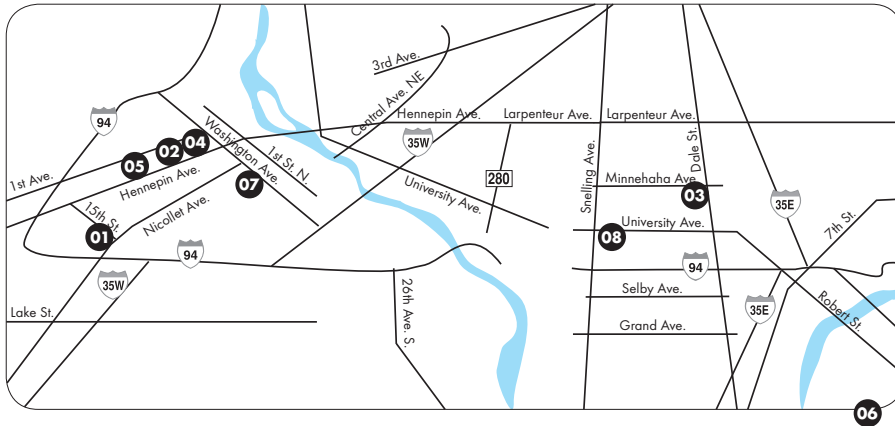
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Splash of Triple Sec
Splash of Cranberry Juice
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WHEN

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WHY

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COALE'S
October 13

Photos by George Holdgrafer





Elegance

One-Year Anniversary Show
Saturday, October 30 • 9 PM
The Best Ebony Kings and Queens
Hosted by Shamika Dupri

Mark Your Calendar

Cheapie Nights
Fri., Oct. 29 • Fri., Nov. 5
Lip Service • Sat., Nov. 6

Olde Tymers Party

Saturday, October 23 • 4 PM?
Dancing with DJ Dennis • No Cover



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TRIANGLE OF HOPE

HOSTS
15TH-ANNIVERSARY
SHOW

A promotional poster for the Miss Gay 90's Pageant 2010. It features a woman, Victoria Gotti, wearing a large, ornate, jeweled crown and a black dress. She is smiling and holding a small, round, silver object. The background is blue with white rays emanating from behind the crown. Text on the poster includes: "MISS GAY 90'S PAGEANT 2010", "Thursday October 28th", "LaFemme Lounge", "Doors open @8pm", "Prizes: 1st \$500, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$100", "Come watch Victoria Gotti pass on her crown", "18+", and "408 S. Hennepin Ave • MPLS, MN 55401 • GAY90S.COM". A small logo for "multimediagraphics.net" is in the bottom right corner.

MISS GAY 90'S PAGEANT 2010

Thursday October 28th

LaFemme Lounge
Doors open @8pm

Prizes
1st \$500
2nd \$300
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Come watch Victoria Gotti pass on her crown

18+

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Show Director Mary Brewster.
Photo Courtesy of Mary Brewster

Triangle of Hope (TOH) hosts its 15th-anniversary "Ex-drag-a-ganza" show on November 7, 5 PM, at the Town House bar in St. Paul. Featuring a cavalcade of performers, it's a fundraiser for Clare Housing.

The late Gary Hinze founded TOH in November 1995 to raise money for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. Over the past 15 years, it has put on myriad events, donating hundreds of thousands of dol-

lars to local groups.

TOH is an all-volunteer, grassroots organization. It has no overhead or administrative costs. So, 100 percent of what it raises during benefits goes directly to the local HIV/AIDS community.

Longtime TOH Show Director Mary Brewster says, "Triangle of Hope volunteers do this purely for the enjoyment of performing, and for the betterment of themselves and of the community. How many other organizations can say that?"

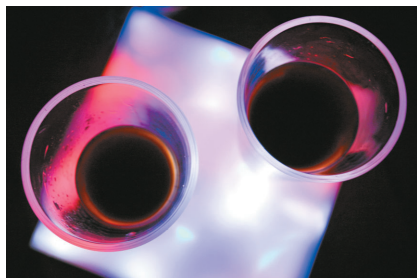
Organizations that Triangle of Hope has benefited over the years include Agape Dos, Agape House, AIDS Care Partners, The Aliveness Project, Camp Heartland, Clare Housing, District 202, Grace House, Hope House, Park House, Minnesota AIDS Project, Minnesota AIDS Walk, Minnesota Men of Color, and Top Shelf.

Members of TOH have helped support Animal Ark, the Minnesota Vixen football team, the Paul Bunyan Invitational Bowling Tournament, the St. Paul Goodtime Bowling League, and the Town House Arrest softball team. In addition, TOH members have held a number of fundraisers to assist individuals in need at difficult times in their lives, such as Ti-Néa.

Brewster shares, "It's rare that I am ever at a loss for what to say, but while reflecting over the past decade-and-a-half, I am having a difficult time coming up with the words to describe what this 'event' means to me. You've watched firsthand this once shy and timid—and skinny!—'girl' morph into a 'large and in-charge' Show Director who has had the extreme pleasure of bringing these shows to the stage, and making a few dollars for organizations like Clare Housing along the way." **GEORGE HOLDGRAFER**



For club addresses, phone numbers, and Web sites, see "Bar Advertiser Guide" on page 38. For events not at bars, see <LavenderMagazine.com/calendar>.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

Lavender's ThirstDay
5:30 PM. Rumours/Innuendo.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

Gary Collins
5 PM. Tickle.
Mia Dorr
9 PM. Tickle.
One-Year Anniversary Weekend Bash
Brass Rail
Toga Party
One-Year Anniversary Celebration
Gladius

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Olde Tyme's Party
4 PM. Town House.
Turnabout Ball

Imperial Court of Minnesota Benefit for Harvey Milk Foundation
7 PM. Gladius.

Jeff Olson
8:30 PM. Tickle.
Drag King Minnesota Pageant
9 PM. Town House.
One-Year Anniversary Weekend Bash
Brass Rail

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

Miss Gay 90's Pageant 2010
8 PM. La Femme Show Lounge. Gay 90's.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

Gary Collins
5 PM. Tickle.
A Time for Change
Imperial Court of Minnesota Benefit for National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's The National Conference on LGBT Equality: ➔

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BAR CALENDAR

Creating Change
7 PM. Gladius.

Mia Dorr

9 PM. Tickle's.

Halloween Voltage & Costume Contest
Coale's

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

Elegance

One-Year Anniversary Show

9 PM. Town House.

Halloween Costume Contest

Prizes Awarded 11 PM. 19 Bar.

Halloween Party & Costume Contest

Brass Rail

Halloween Costume Contest

Gladius

Halloween Ball & Costume Contest

Benefits The Aliveness Project

Tickles

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

Halloween Party & Costume Contest

9 PM. Dance Annex. Gay 90's. ■

Jukebox • Video Games • 3 75¢ Pool Tables • Pinball • Darts
Pull Tabs Benefit The Aliveness Project
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**HALLOWEEN
COSTUME CONTEST**

Saturday, October 30

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3rd Place \$50 Bar Tab

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Loath as I am to begin with a quote, I must admit that quite often throughout the history of the recorded word, the concept I am formulating already has been expressed—more perfectly—by someone else. ➔

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“Sanctuary, on a personal level, is where we perform the job of taking care of our soul.”

Roasted beet salad, boursin cheese, pickled asparagus, red onion, and fried plantain chips.

It wasn't a Greek philosopher, but rather the author of a book on gardening, who said, “Sanctuary, on a personal level, is where we perform the job of taking care of our soul.” At the moment, I have no better, more succinct description than that.

Sanctuary is an ambitious name for a restaurant to live up to, but Executive Chef Patrick Atanalian is more than up to the challenge.

Because Sanctuary attracts its share of Guthrie patrons, the dinner rush can be intense. However, despite an astonishingly small kitchen, Atanalian's menu reveals a cool hand and a playful spirit.

Atanalian's early-fall cuisine takes unlikely

inspiration from a recent trip to Miami, tempering more robust flavors with the mildness of late summer. In addition, Monday through Thursday, a tasting menu provides an incredible value at \$35, while a wine flight is \$14.

When I visited the restaurant, the week's selections included a Thai Sausage Appetizer, which balanced its saltiness with a comforting lilt of sugar; the refreshing roasted red beet salad, with creamy boursin cheese, pickled asparagus, and fried plantain chips (also listed on the regular menu for \$6); a rich and peppery shrimp pappardelle, tossed in a rosemary, garlic, and red wine sauce; a surprisingly sweet smoked chicken, with succulent hen of the woods ➔



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Cider Manhattan

mushrooms; and a dainty pumpkin pie.

Any of them are worthy of a paragraph, but I thought it best to focus my column on the regular menu—although it, too, changes frequently.

Tuna sashimi, served with heady mustard seed oil, green onion, and grilled avocados, and punctuated with shaved dark chocolate (\$8), is a masterpiece. In other, less-skilled hands, I doubt shaved dark chocolate and mustard oil would work, but the lightly scattered shavings lend the dish a touch of bitter that helps the brighter flavors gain footing.

In fact, the dish was so inspiring that this on-again/off-again cook now is on the hunt for mustard seed oil. I know I'd probably make a fine mess of it, but somehow, the flavors that come out of Atanalian's kitchen are so interesting and odd, it almost makes one sufficiently overconfident to don an apron, and ask: Why not? So, why not grind up some skittles, and sprinkle them atop your holiday turkey? I can see it all now: "Let us give thanks, while we *taste the rainbow*."

Garlic, spinach, Parmesan, and artichoke tartlets (\$7) arrived next on a pretty little plate of olives provençal, cornichons, and a

healthy shot of verjus at the center. My dining partner and I eyed each other, not wanting to start a war this early on in the meal. Good food is an agent of civilization, but *amazing* food turns both of us into hedonistic savages.

Working our way from the outside of the plate in, we somehow managed to share sips of verjus—acidic juice of unripened grapes. It was a common ingredient in Medieval cooking, where modern cooks often would use wine or vinegar, but today, verjus is used less frequently outside of, say, Syria.

I have had lamb as part of my holiday meal ever since I was a child, in every sort of way a Jewish family does, but I never had it smoked. Smoked lamb retains its gaminess—but the smoke complements its natural flavor in such a way that even the less-enthusiastic lamb eater might be tempted to try a bite.

Atanalian's smoked lamb shank (\$20) rests in a porcini mushroom reduction, with gigante beans, roasted red pepper, and sweet onion. It doesn't take the place of my childhood rack-of-lamb fantasy, but it doesn't need to in order to win my absolute respect

and admiration. Paired with either the food-friendly Ferrari-Carano Cabernet or—better still—the fruity Marietta Reserve Zinfandel, it is extraordinary.

Desserts are lighter at Sanctuary—even the chocolate brownie with vanilla ice cream and fresh berries (\$8) seems weightless. However, I suggest sampling the trio of dessert shots (\$10.50) for something a little different.

The featured cocktails tend to be a bit sweet, so one also could look there for an after-dinner drink. That list will change shortly, except for the ever-popular Quasi-Mojo (\$9.50)—a mojito with a pleasant hint of absinthe.

Unless you have that Guthrie show to rush off to, I suggest an after-dinner something or other. Sanctuary's handsome, slightly-gothic decor encourages a guest to linger.

Granted temporary asylum from the ordinary and the expected, I was reluctant to leave this Sanctuary. **HEIDI FELLNER**

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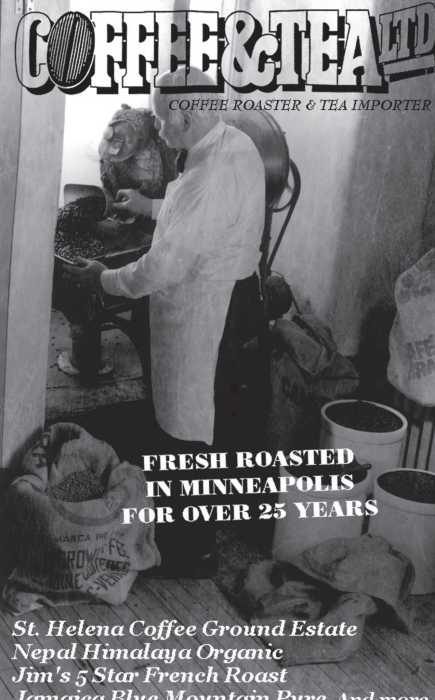
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A Passing Glance

Behind every glance, beyond every passing brush, a million memories reside. Each day, we pass by the most enthralling stories in the world: the true lives of other people. Strangers.

We spend a great deal of our lives with them. We admire a few on the beach. We're humbled by those living on the street. Some we speak to: servers, cashiers, clients.

But we never collect more than a fragment of who they are. In the vein of the professional, we most frequently are unscathed by their troubles. We aren't afforded the right to bask with them in their happiness.

We encounter these realities for only a moment's time, rarely ever noticing. As we age into adulthood, our freedom to prance about without social barrier—our sheer willingness to explore—often dulls into one of those indelible hallmarks of humanity: the fear of judgment. Rejection.

The result, then, is that we grow weary of

strangers. Ironically, we thrust upon strangers our own regrets and our own exuberance. Whereas the fear of judgment and rejection prevents us from knowing strangers, our isolation from these people dehumanizes them.

So, when we're pissed off at the airport because our flight was canceled, we project our anger onto a woman who just passes along the message. A woman, perhaps, who just lost her husband, and is left with three children. A woman who, despite her own hardship, loyally endures daily abuse by passengers with a smile on her face.

We never will know who she is, but we'll jump to show our disappointment in her—as we will with so many others—all from the safety of isolation.

I don't mean to peg us as monsters, please understand. The innumerable people we interact with (and don't) include myriad assumptions and outcomes.

But what happens when we break the

mold? What happens when we invest ourselves in strangers?

Life won't afford us the opportunity to know everyone we see, but it grants us the potential to do something incredibly powerful (and remarkably rare).

What I'm going to suggest may seem too much to ask—as far-fetched as it comes—but bear with me.

You see, we have these great things called faces. They show how we feel, and, to some extent, who we are.

Upon these faces, we have kissable things called lips. Group these lips with a few renegade muscles, and what we have is this shockingly-simple, day-changingly-powerful, thing: a smile.

Although it won't always work, a smile oftentimes will be returned. And even though we cannot peer into the lives of strangers, we will know—if just for a passing glance—how they felt. **JUSTIN JONES**

Celebrate GLBT history. And then, make some of your own!

Join us to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the internationally acclaimed Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota, featuring an exhibit, "Saving Our Lives," a private fundraising dinner, and a community open house.



Make history with your contribution to the **Tretter Time Capsule and Oral History Project**. What illustrates your GLBT experience? A ticket stub? An event program? A letter you wrote to your parents? A poem you wrote or one that moved you? Just imagine. In 50 years when the time capsule is opened, what will a future generation learn from the message you leave behind? (See <http://z.umn.edu/tretterevents> for contribution guidelines.)

All events will be held at Elmer L. Andersen Library—University of Minnesota.
Info and guidelines for time capsule & video oral history: <http://z.umn.edu/tretterevents>

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21

Thursday, October

THE HAUNTED THEATER. Just in time for Halloween, Music Box Theatre presents *The Haunted Theater*. Having first opened its doors in 1920, this cavernous old theater has stories to tell, with hauntings of long-forgotten characters. This event takes visitors on an eerie journey through a spine-chilling labyrinth of rooms, basements, and corridors where the legends of the theater's past still wait for audiences to entertain. Through Oct. 31. Music Box Theatre, 1407 Nicollet Ave., Mpls. (612) 424-1407. <www.musicboxtheatre.org>.

22

Friday, October

EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL. Minneapolis Musical Theatre presents *Evil Dead: The Musical*, a hilarious stage musical that takes all the elements of cult classic films *Evil Dead 1*, *Evil Dead 2*, and *Army of Darkness*, combining them to make one of the craziest theatrical experiences of all time. Five college students go to an abandoned cabin in the woods, and accidentally unleash an evil force that turns them into demons. It's all up to Ash and his trusty chainsaw to save the day. Through Nov. 7. Illusion Theater, 8th Flr., Hennepin Center for the Arts, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.aboutnmt.org>.

GEE'S BEND. Park Square Theatre presents the regional premiere of playwright Elizabeth Gregory Wilder's *Gee's Bend*, directed by Austene Van. This epic yet intimate play, which spans more than 65 years, follows Sadie Pettway from her teenage years to her 70s; her sister, Nella; and their mother, Alice. As they persevere through segregation, family turmoil, and the battle for Civil Rights, quilting brings them comfort. Through Nov. 7. Park Square Theatre, 20 W. 7th Pl., St. Paul. (651) 291-7005. <www.parksquaretheatre.com>.

QUEER TWIN CITIES RECEPTION AND TALK. 7 PM. The Twin Cities GLBT Oral History Project—a collective organization



Gee's Bend.
Photo by Petronella Ystma

of students, scholars, and activists devoted to documenting and interpreting the lives of Twin Cities GLBT people—is hosting this event to promote its new book *Queer Twin Cities*. Published by the University of Minnesota, and edited by Professors Kevin P. Murphy and Jennifer L. Pierce, it's a uniquely critical collection of essays on Minnesota's vibrant queer communities, past and present. Above Nomad World Pub, 501 Cedar Ave., Mpls. (612) 338-2720.

26

Tuesday, October

CROSSING THE BARRIERS BOOK LAUNCH. Perhaps best-known for coming out as openly gay in 1974 during his first term in the Minnesota Senate, Allan Spear had a long and distinguished career as a historian and senator. He passed away on October 11, 2008, leaving his autobiography slightly incomplete. A stirring afterword by John Milton completes Spear's story, chronicling his accomplishments as a politician and activist during his final years. 6-8 PM. Hubert H. Humphrey Center Atrium, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Ave. S., Mpls.

5

Friday, November

SPRING AWAKENING. Although it's fall, springing forth locally are two productions of *Spring Awakening* (see next calendar entry). Hamline University Theatre begins its 80th season with the premiere of Frank Wedekind's 1891 classic, newly translated from the original German by Nichole Bachman (Hamline Class of 2006), and adapted for the Hamline stage by her and director Jeff Turner. Exploring the relationships between youth and adulthood, freedom and structure, and the societal conventions binding them together, this provocative play (contains mature content) debuts on the Anne Simley Stage at Hamline. Through Nov. 13. Drew Fine Arts Center, Hamline University, 1530 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul. (651) 523-2905. <tickets@hamline.edu>.

6

Saturday, November

SPRING AWAKENING. Hennepin Theatre Trust presents this landmark musical, winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, as a special addition to its 2010-2011 Broadway Across America season. Based on the 1891 Frank Wedekind play, *Spring Awakening* is a stirring combination of sexuality, morality, and rock-and-roll. Set against the backdrop of a repressive and provincial Late-19th-Century Germany, this powerful celebration of youth and rebellion follows a group of young students, as they navigate through teenage self-discovery and coming-of-age anxiety. Contains strong language, partial nudity, and adult situations. Through Nov. 7. Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. 1 (800) 982-2787. <www.hennepintheatretrust.org>.

ONGOING

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS. History buffs: Check out what is believed to be one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of our time. See the collection of 2,000-year-old documents that shed light on a period in religious history. The scrolls, some of the oldest surviving written documents in human history, were discovered in a cave along the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea in 1947. Through Oct. 24. Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. <www.smm.org>.

EVITA. First Lady of Argentina Eva Perón was a legend in her time. An illegitimate country girl, she rose to become the most powerful woman Latin America had seen—a potent symbol of hope and change. Theater Latté Da takes a fresh look at this provocative telling of her brief and fascinating life. Through Nov. 14. Ordway Center, McKnight Theatre, 345 Washington St., St. Paul. (651) 224-4222. <www.ordway.org>.

LE DANCE OFF. James Sewell Ballet presents *Le Dance Off*, its wry twist on the current craze of celebrity-infused competitive dance. The company offers a collection of new choreography and audience favorites set to music ranging from Bach to Lady Gaga. True to the format, the show brings in exhibitions from guest artists, including Summit Dance Shoppe. Through Oct. 24. O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Catherine University, 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul. (651) 690-6700. <<http://oshaughnessystate.edu>>.



Le Dance Off.
Photo by Eric Saulitis

PROOF. Workhouse Theatre Company, North Minneapolis's only resident professional theater company, presents its season-opener, *Proof*, by David Auburn, directed by Diane Mountford. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and 2001 Tony Award for Best Play, it's the story of Catherine, a troubled young woman walking the fine line between genius and madness in her quest to move from the shadow of her brilliant father and domineering sister into the possibility of love and identity on her own terms. Through Oct. 24. The Warren-An Artist Habitat, 4400 Osseo Rd., Mpls. (612) 216-1583. <www.workhousetheatre.org>.

ROCK OF AGES. This five-time Tony-nominated musical stars Tony Award-nominee and *American Idol* finalist Constantine Maroulis. In 1987, on the Sunset Strip, a small-town girl met a big-city dreamer, and in LA's most legendary rock club, they fell in love to the greatest songs of the '80s. Through Oct. 24. Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Avenue, Mpls. <www.hennepintheatretrust.org>.

For additional calendar events, visit <www.LavenderMagazine.com>.

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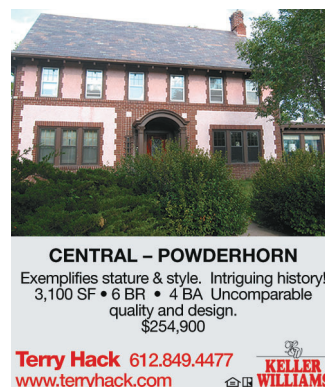
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STEPMONSTER

Here are two great things about having a stepson:

1. He's not really yours, so you're not responsible for how he turns out.

2. You can experiment on him.

I recently acquired a stepson, and it's a lot more fun than I anticipated. When my girlfriend and I got together two years ago, she warned me about the boy, who was 8 years old at the time.

"He's quirky," she said—which, of course, I translated into: "He's a big freak who may stab you in your sleep."

But I was wrong. He's the good kind of quirky. He's the type of quirky that prefers spending the weekend drawing graphic novels to watching TV. He can't throw a football, but he can sing a show tune. And he thinks I'm the funniest person in the world.

When Wendy and I began dating, I figured my role in the boy's life would be limited to buying him the occasional ice cream cone, and feigning interest in his art projects.

After all, the kid already has two dominating, overprotective mothers. He sure as hell doesn't need another one.

But, again, I was wrong.

Almost immediately, maternal things

were expected of me. Making snacks. Helping with homework. And, especially, joining him in his elaborate fantasy world, and allowing him to do anything his mothers forbid.

Wendy and her ex are fantastic mothers, but they have no sense of whimsy or imagination. They're all about eating your vegetables, wearing weather-appropriate clothing, and going to bed at a decent hour.

The boy and I bonded the first time we were left alone together. Wendy had to run to the store. After spending several minutes wringing her hands over whether I'd be responsible enough to take care of the kid for an hour, she commanded that I "do something educational with him," as she reluctantly headed out the door.

The minute the door closed, the boy, who up to this point had paid very little attention to me, made his eyes all liquid and puppyish, asking, "Can I watch *Sponge Bob*?"

I glanced at the long list of rules Wendy drafted before leaving. "No *Sponge Bob*" was at the top of the list, just under "No processed sugar."

"Sure, kid," I said, ripping up the list. "And how about some candy before dinner?"

We've been fast friends ever since. I have taught him swear words, and have encour-

aged him to use them in creative ways.

When he got in trouble from his teacher and his moms for hitting a kid who was bullying him, I patted him on the back, and told him it sounded like the kid deserved a smack. "He did," he said under his breath.

At the beginning of the relationship, I wondered if I'd have to fight the kid for Wendy's attention. But now, it's she who fights for our attention.

While Wendy cooks our meals, and cleans up after us, the boy and I have long discussions about utter nonsense, and, increasingly, about girls.

By all laws of nature, the kid should be a big fag, but he loves the ladies. And I'm very generous with advice in this area.

Shortly after I first met him, I referred to him as "son" as a joke. He didn't think it was funny.

"I'm not your son," he said, still smarting from his moms' breakup, and resenting my presence.

But yesterday, when I picked him up at school, a kid asked if I was his mom.

He said, "No, she's a lot more fun than a mom."

I nudged a tear from my eye, and said, "That's my boy!" **JENNIFER PARELLO**

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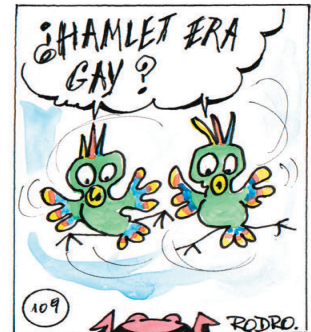
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Pillow Talk

Albert Einstein needed 12 uninterrupted hours of it every single night of his life. Thomas Edison and Teddy Roosevelt got by on only four. Studies indicate the average individual requires eight hours.

Naturally, I refer to the time each of us spends watching Bravo's *Real Housewives of...*

Actually, I am referring to sleep—certainly the least-understood of the body's requirements, with the possible exception of our craving for candy corn and beer nuts.

Even more intriguing than sleep itself is why a mature adult would ever consider sharing his or her bed with another person.

When sleeping next to another mass of protoplasm, advanced camouflage techniques should be mandatory, because a sleeping human is no visual picnic.

I myself like to go to bed wearing a fluffy bunny or adorable flying squirrel outfit. Perhaps this is why my ex-"bitter half" insisted on introducing me as his insignificant other.

Well! He's one to talk. What men resemble most when they're asleep is a corpse with epilepsy—with their eyeballs doing the mambo, and their breath capable of blasting condors out of their nests.

And the average woman? Well, dozing by the side of this prehistoric ape may be his lovely mate, resplendent in a filmy negligee. With all due respect, Victoria's secret is that she snores like a moose, while drooling all over her pillow.

Folks, what we have here are two hideous snoozing gargoyles locked in a fight-to-the-death battle over the bedding, while totally comatose with absolutely no control over most bodily functions.

Women may be considered the less-aggressive sex during the day, but they're a tad less docile at night. Once upon a mattress, a woman immediately forms a cozy protective cocoon out of every last sheet, blanket, and comforter.

This leaves the typical man shivering wildly in nothing but his stained jockey shorts, which typically are seven years old and four sizes too small. Freezing to death, he spends the rest of the evening searching for enough kindling to start a modest bonfire.

It had always been my sad fate to lose

not only the covers, but also the very bed itself to my ex-hubby. We were a civilized couple, so the night began with roughly equal sleeping areas, and a mutual best wishes for a sound night's sleep.

But as soon as the lights flitted out, a vicious, full-scale sneak attack was launched upon my sovereign territory. Within a matter of moments, I found the phone cord wrapped around my larynx in a hangman's knot, and my fat ass wedged snugly into the top drawer of the nightstand.

After being extricated from my furniture with the Jaws of Life, I rejoined my "beloved" on our Sealy Torturepedic. Always thinking of me, the little darling was muttering to himself in the throes of a terrifying nightmare, and lashing out with a flurry of right hooks, followed by an impressive series of powerful roundhouse kicks.

After finally passing out from the pain, I was startled awake by what I believed to be a prowler. This prowler detection was a new major league record, the 3,837th consecutive night I had sensed an invisible intruder from another galaxy. It broke the old record set by a Kentucky woman who blamed all her personal problems on an uncontrollable fear of stray possums.

I didn't move a muscle. I was in no condition to fight a prowler. I hadn't slept a wink, but my hopeless ex was now in a coma. I was still recovering from a stray kick, and, other than my body odor, I kept no weapons in my bedroom.

If someone was really there, how scared could he be of a nearsighted limping old lady, clad in a flying squirrel outfit, trying to fight him off with a Stephen King paperback and a clock radio?

So, was it my destiny to stumble through life in a perpetual haze brought on by night upon endless night of sleep deprivation?

Hell, no, I said! I ditched the husband.

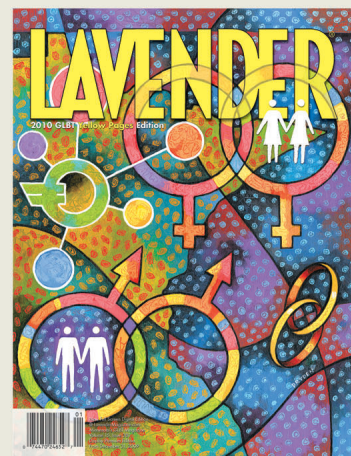
Unfortunately, I replaced him with a hyperactive and paranoid watchdog that—all through the night—makes it his business to alert me with his claws every time a flea farts.

What next? Bedbugs?

Oh, hell, consider the source here, and just pass the Ambien.

Bye for now.

Kiss, kiss. **JULIE DAFYDD**



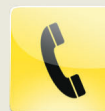
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“It’s Going To Be OK”

When I was a kid, I did not know anyone gay or lesbian, except for my mother’s “swishy” haircutter, who dubbed himself “Mr. Robert.” And perhaps, in retrospect, the strapping female summer camp counselor who always showed up with a tennis racket in the middle of the night to fend off bats.

By the time I was in my midteens, I desperately needed to talk to someone about being gay. I convinced my parents to let me see a therapist, but I couldn’t tell them why.

Once I finally got to see Dr. Marilyn Lipschitz-Gould (not her real name), it took me seven months to get to the point. Even then, I made her guess.

She said, “Three other teenagers have had trouble telling me things. One was addicted to drugs, one was gay, and one had a stealing problem.”

“One of those things,” I said.

Once I finally told her the truth, she tried to talk me out of it.

That was a long time ago.

Those of us born before the 1980s like to assume that it’s “easier” for GLBT kids growing up now. After all, we can get married in some states. We have cultural role models. Gay people on TV and in the movies don’t even have to suffer or die before the credits roll.

My generation sometimes has sounded like our grandparents complaining about having to walk 12 miles to school in the snow in the old days.

We may say, “Remember when lesbians only could be sad, flannel-clad bull dykes who touched each other’s hair to express their erotic desires, and gay men only could be bitter lisping sissies? Now, they have *Ellen!* And *Modern Family!* And *The L Word* reruns!

I’ve heard us remark, “Being gay now is barely an issue, or if anything, it makes kids seem more hip.”

But after Tyler Clementi’s tragic death, among others, our enthusiastic assumptions about what it’s like to be a GLBT kid today

clearly, are wrong. Adolescence is still hell.

A prevailing message still is that gay people are contemptible, and shouldn’t be allowed equal rights. Social status still is determined by the culture immediately around you, whether you’re in the Bible Belt or the gayest town on earth.

So, unless you’re a GLBT kid who’s lucky enough to live in a place with a lot of variety (in households, politics, artistic sensibility, etc.), being queer still is considered...well, queer—and not in a good way.

When I was in sixth grade, I was not like the other girls, with their blow-dried hair, shell necklaces, and platform shoes. Pushed around, called names, and excluded, I was certain that they hated me. I sat in the bathroom across the hall from my classroom, and fantasized about jumping off the roof.

Part of the reason I didn’t fit in was that I recently had moved from Brooklyn to Long Island, an entirely different culture. The other reason I felt different was that I was a

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budding little lesbian.

I don't want to make it sound either more trivial or more dramatic than it was. No one threatened my life, and I never came up with a serious plan to kill myself.

Even now, although I am decades past that experience, and literally millions of things have happened since then, I still think of sixth grade as one of the worst years of my life.

Maybe Asher Brown, who shot himself in the head, and Seth Walsh, who hanged himself in his backyard, also would have gone on to mostly better years if they had made it past 13.

Only the extreme examples, the kids who are bullied, and then kill themselves (or are killed), end up in the media.

For every gay kid who is persecuted so much that he or she ultimately dies, hundreds of others must be suffering, usually stuck where they are, and shaped by their torment.

Like many friends, I've been inspired by recent events to look for ways to help. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) offers a list of specific suggestions of what you can do to make a difference at <www.glsen.org>.

Every GLBT person remembers that first exhilarating moment of finding his or her people—walking into a room, and realizing that someone in it...no, wait, *everyone* in it...is gay, lesbian, or trans. Or, finally being in a place where sexual orientation doesn't matter...to anyone.

Kids sometimes have to wait a very long time for that moment. But we all can find opportunities to reach out—to say, "It's going to be OK. It's going to be more than OK." **MERYL COHN**

© 2010 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette* (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.

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